

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 94

By Mumpower

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of David Ward Tipton of Piney Flats.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of David Ward Tipton; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, a native of Piney Flats, David Tipton was born on July 2, 1924, to Frank W. Tipton and Euna Weaver Tipton; and

WHEREAS, he attended Poplar Ridge and Mary Hughes schools before entering the United States Navy in 1940 and serving in World War II, during which service he earned campaign medals for participation in the Atlantic campaign, the Pacific campaign, and the occupation of Japan; and

WHEREAS, from October of 1940 until May of 1943, David Tipton served aboard the USS Chester, a heavy cruiser that was bombed and torpedoed during the battle of Coral Sea and many other actions in the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton went on to serve on the USS Tuscana during the historic battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa before retiring from the Navy in 1960 with the rank of chief petty officer, having devoted twenty years of faithful service to his country; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the Navy, he served with acumen and alacrity as a supervisor at Pharmaseal Laboratories in Johnson City, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work until his retirement in 1986; and

WHEREAS, David Tipton was an active and devout member of Poplar Ridge Christian Church in Piney Flats, which was founded by his ancestors in the Smith and Weaver families in 1842; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton devoted much of his life to a variety of civic, political, and social organizations; and

WHEREAS, he was a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 9629, where he served as Post Commander since 1970; he served as State Commander of the Tennessee VFW from 1986 to 1987, as the VFW's representative to the board of directors of the Mountain Home Veterans Hospital, and as a life member of the Fleet Reserve Association and the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton was a 32nd degree Mason, a member of M.M. Martin Lodge 547, a member of the York and Scottish rites, and a Shriner; and

WHEREAS, he served for more than eighteen years as a member of the Tennessee Veterans Home Board, having first been appointed by Governor McWherter in 1988 and reappointed by Governor Sundquist and Governor Bredesen; he also served as a member of the Sullivan County Board of Zoning Appeals; and

WHEREAS, a lifelong Republican, David Tipton stood as a member and Chairman of the ninth precinct in Piney Flats and as a member of the Sullivan County Executive Committee, where he held the office of Vice President of the Third Legislative District; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton was a life member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans Lieutenant Robert D. Powell Camp of Blountville, his great-grandfather, Granville Smith, having served in the 59th Tennessee Mounted Infantry from Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife of fifty-three years, Berneice Dempsey Tipton, and was the proud father and father-in-law of Judith Lynn and Bob Martin and David William and Ann M. Tipton; and

WHEREAS, he will be sorely missed by his four granddaughters, Amy Raines, Alison Bryan, Kimberly Laisure, and Ashley Tipton and by his three great-grandchildren, Chloe Bryan, Braden Bryan, and Corbin Laisure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Tipton is survived by his sister, Billie Malone of Bristol, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, David Tipton was an honorable man who worked tirelessly to better the lives of Veterans in his community and all over this great State; and

WHEREAS, he leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of David Ward Tipton, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Tipton.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.